

Washington, DC — Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) met with Heron Home Healthcare, a global medical equipment company that has facilities in Drexel Hill and Coatesville, and toured the Southeast Medical Imaging (SMI) Center at the Crozer-Keystone Health Center to talk about issues affecting healthcare. SMI specializes in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), women's imaging & mammography, ultrasound, vascular imaging, nuclear medicine, neuroradiology, interventional radiology/angiography, pediatrics and musculoskeletal imaging. This practice has long been associated with the Crozer-Keystone hospitals in the area, and is now offering Interventional Radiology and Endovascular Procedures at Riddle Memorial Hospital in Media, PA. SMI provides state-of-the-art and cutting-edge technologies to patients in the Tri-State region. — Today's meetings are a continuation of the Congressman's discussions on healthcare, including his recently held Healthcare Summit, which provided an opportunity for medical professionals, hospitals, consumer advocates, nurses, union and workforce leaders, businesses and the public from across the district to address the challenges facing our health care system, including the accessibility, affordability, and quality of our health care system.

"We all have ideas on ways we can improve access and the quality of healthcare. By working together, we can come up with solutions that will eventually ensure everyone has access to medical care," noted Congressman Sestak, "Throughout Pennsylvania and the nation, health care costs are rising at exponential rates. We are facing critical shortages in health care workers, and the number of uninsured is increasing. These are not signs of a stable health care system. By meeting with leaders in the health care industry, like Heron Home Healthcare and SMI, we can find solutions and opportunities that work."

The Congressman has also visited with other hospitals and healthcare groups, including hosting a meeting with local Hospital CEOs to discuss the critical issues affecting hospitals in its delivery of healthcare. In particular, he attended the Chester County Hospital May Festival and toured Eagleville Hospital, which is dedicated to the treatment, education, and prevention of substance abuse and co-occurring disorders, to highlight his support for creating parity in our health care system with the treatment of mental illness and substance abuse. Mental illness, including substance abuse, is one of the leading disabilities in America— an estimated 26.4 percent of Americans aged 18 and older (about one in four adults) suffer from diagnosable mental illness.

To bring equity to the treatment of mental illness and substance abuse, Congressman Sestak recently partnered with Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) to successfully offer two amendments to H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which will improve mental health care for our wounded soldiers. The first amendment highlights the fact that mental health

care is an essential component to the medical services offered to our Veterans and the members of our Armed Services by clarifying that 'medical care' as discussed in H.R. 1538 includes mental health care services. The second amendment, also offered with Congressman Kennedy, requires the Secretary of the Department of Defense to develop a plan to help prevent Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other stress-related psychopathologies (including substance abuse conditions) from developing in our military service members. In addition, it requires the Secretary to submit to Congress within 180 days a plan for establishing a Peer-Reviewed research program within the Defense Health Program's research and development function to research the prevention of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and how to best strengthen the psychological resiliency of our military service members. Both amendments passed with unanimous support.

In Congress, Congressman Sestak has worked to improve the quality and accessibility of our healthcare system. As a member of the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, which has jurisdiction over employee health benefits, as well as the Small Business Subcommittee on Regulations, Healthcare and Trade, the Congressman has been working to make healthcare more affordable for small businesses. In addition, he helped expand funding for embryonic stem cell research by cosponsoring and voting for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 3), and he introduced the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act (H.R. 1553), along with Congresswoman Deborah Pryce (R-OH), to encourage and expand support for biomedical research programs for childhood cancer and to establish a population-based childhood cancer database. Congressman Sestak also pushed for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with drug manufacturers to obtain more affordable medication prices for Medicare beneficiaries by cosponsoring and voting for H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Direct Negotiation Act.

Congressman Sestak is also very interested in hearing from his constituents and therefore has begun a "Congress in your corner" series where he meets with them in the District. He believes accountability and accessibility to the families of our district are very important to being an effective Representative, and he is committed to both. Instead of asking people to go to Washington, DC, he also wants to go to them.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from

Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.